SCCHA Newsletter January 2024

From: Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association (sccha@wildapricot.org)

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

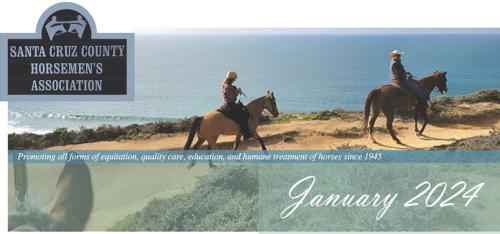
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 at 05:45 PM PST

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Hold down the CTRL key (on a PC) or the CMD key (on a Mac) while you hit the + key until the pages are large enough. If you want to revert to the original size, hold down CTRL or CMD and hit zero.

You can also enlarge the newsletter in the website archives https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Newsletter-Archives

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President's message:

Last year I made many prophetic predictions for the year. I would like to revisit some of those and make new ones for 2024.

First the fails of 2023. Gophers and ticks did not disappear from the Showgrounds, as I predicted. I did not get taller—actually, I may have moved in the other direction. Technology still is not my friend and poison oak did not move away from the trails.

But, I had a few hits in my predictions, as well. Covid did follow us around like the crazy uncle who acts out occasionally, but at least didn't wreck the entire party. New friends were made, old ones passed, and we shared many laughs at the club campfire. We still watered the big arena, but not the small one, thanks to our new dust control treatment.

Here are my sage predictions for how 2024 will roll out:

- **1.** The Farmer's Almanac, the printed paper version, will be used as God and my grandfather intended, resulting in far fewer internet searches.
- **2.** *I will do something stupid*—you will, too—and we won't be spun off the earth; the earth will continue to spin anyway.
- **3.** I foresee even more kids camping, riding, and having fun at the Showgrounds, including kids who don't have their own horses. I see ribbons galore in my crystal ball, and stick horses!
- **4.** SCCHA will become a hub of Working Equitation and Obstacle Events, and we will host many events with other horsey groups. Our club's profile will rival Taylor Swift's.
- **5.** *Dental work* will be done by the Tooth Fairy while I sleep.

Photo above (taken through the ears of Rebel by Heather Shupe): Larry DeYoung leads the way along the Montarra dunes, Suzanne Cornelius following.



Just a few of the fun events to come:

1/16 Member Meeting 6:30 @ the Clubhouse

2/10 Beginning Horse Communication Class

4/6 Spring Tuneup

5/11 Garrocha Clinic with Ali Kermeen

5/25 Memorial Day Weekend Obstacle Challenge

6/29 SCCHA Kids Playday

For more information and more great events in 2024, keep reading and click the links below:

- **6.** We will talk more to our horses and all species. Al might actually be useful here, recording and interpreting sounds coupled with behaviors, giving us a platform to meaningfully communicate with wildlife and our animals alike.
- **7.** We will honor our connections and relationships with all beings, human and more-than-human, who share our world.
- **8.** We will show up, connect, speak and act from ove.
- **9.** The gophers at the Showgrounds will decide to move to a more welcoming neighborhood. I still don't know where.

Happy New Year and Happy Trails,

-Robin Musitelli

Don't forget to check the SCCHA website for more events and for archived photos of past events: https://sccha.wildapricot.org/

and our FB page: https://www.facebook.com/people/Santa-Cruz-County-Horsemens/100057818433171/

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Please join us for a chat with

Kevin Foster!

Tuesday, January 16th 6:30pm at the Clubhouse

Kevin is well known in the San Lorenzo Valley for his cowboy etiquette and willingness to lend a hand to neighbors and injured wildlife. We are hoping he will bring along one (or two) of his feathered friends for a demonstration/discussion on birds of prey.





Check conditions before you go!

The Showgrounds facilities aren't always useable. Check https://sccha.wildapricot.org/ and the Santa Cruz County horsemens FB pge before you go. The sign at the entrance to the grounds will also tell you what areas are open.



At November's member meeting, Jocelyn Whidden explained how telepathic communication can enhance our relationship with horses. Click the link below to listen to a recording of the meeting.

Register now for Jocelyn's

Beginning Horse Communication Class Saturday February 10

12:00-2:00 p.m. at the Showgrounds

Offered to SCCHA members at a reduced rate of \$120. Participants will learn to use focus and Animal Communication to share information with their animals. The class will be open to the first 12 members who sign up. Use the link below to register and pay.

ICYMI:

The season was made brighter by volunteers at the SCCHA Holiday Party. Members were treated to a veritable feast, including Carol Kelly's famous ethereally airy waffles.



Riders in the Felton Horse & Hound Caroling Parade didn't let the threat of an imminent rainstorm dampen their enthusiasm for sharing their handsome and festively decorated mounts with parade goers.



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ICYMI, you can listen to a recording of the Zoom meeting with Jocelyn here:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5467938

To register for the Beginning Horse Communication Class, click here:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5467945

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Preserve the Legacy: Run for the BOARD!

SCCHA wouldn't exist if it's members didn't volunteer. So throw your hat in the ring! Click the links below for more information, and for the history of SCCHA:



Seventy-nine years of the best horsemen, horses, trails, showgrounds, & campgrounds, thanks to the SCCHA Board of Directors and other volunteers!

Our SCCHA Board of Directors elections are just around the corner (March 2024). A notice appeared in last month's newsletter. We have received only one inquiry, and time is running out. An email will be sent to members towards the end of January with a list of those running/nominated.

1945

There are so many reasons why you should consider joining the Board. We have a great group currently on the Board and have put on some fun events throughout 2023. We have awesome events planned for 2024.

The Board meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except for December. Meetings run about 1 ½ hours. The first year on the Board is both a learning experience and a hands-on commitment, depending on your time and interests.

Why volunteer? Volunteering will give you an opportunity to enhance the Club and give back to the community. Have you wished the Club would do something different? Being on the Board is a great way to let your voice be heard. The successful operation of the Showgrounds, being responsive to members' interests, and positioning the Club to head into the future viable and strong requires, most of all, people who can make good, thoughtful, informed decisions. Is that you?

Please contact either Bonnie Stoehn: bonnies@cruzio.com or Peggy Hughes: peggy.mph@gmail.com to nominate someone or throw your hat in the ring. Nominations will also be taken at any membership meeting. We welcome questions and would like to hear from you!



Don't Ride Muddy Trails!

Horses can leave deep holes that permanently damage trails, leaving them unfit for other users when they dry out. Riding wet, muddy trails shows disrespect for the hard labor of volunteers who help maintain and build them.

When the ground is wet and the surf is safe, head for one of Monterey Bay's horse-friendly beaches! Sheryl Germany and Elise Levinson did just that recently when they rode on Salinas River Beach (photo below).





Local Equestrians Ride in Rose Parade

Paris Mahoney and Cavan Smith, both students at Oasis High in Aptos, were honored with an invitation to ride in the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1. Both teens are accomplished riders and competed in the Hunt Seat Interscholastic Equestrian Association National Finals in North Carolina last spring. They practice daily at Trinity Rivers Equestrian on the campus of Monte Vista Christian School. Congratulations, Paris and Cavan!

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Hey Obstacle Fans!

SCCHA has some TERRIFIC events planned for the Club in 2024! Save these dates NOW, so you can enjoy the fun in Santa Cruz!

Spring Tune-Up Clinic April 6-7 A great way to connect with your horse after winter weather, this 2-day clinic is designed for all riding levels and ages! Learn basic maneuvers needed to navigate obstacles, including coaching, practice, feedback, and a mock competition. Tips for working in-hand is an added bonus for those days when you just want something cool to do with your

Memorial Day Weekend Obstacle Challenge Camp-out and show on the first long weekend of the summer! Join us for a potluck and raffle, share stories by the fire pit, and enjoy a 2-day obstacle competition with classes for all rider levels. Saturday we will use the SCCHA Trail Course. Sunday you'll find the show in the arena. Optional guided trail ride on Monday to celebrate Memorial Day.

May 25-27

Summer in Santa Cruz Obstacle Challenge 2-day Obstacle Challenge, with a raffle and dinner in the Clubhouse. Classes for kids, novice, intermediate, and advanced. Obstacle Challenge is open to all riding levels and all equines. We love it when we have ponies, mules, draft horses, and everything in between!

Aug 3-4

CSHA State
Obstacle Challenge
Championship
@ SCCHA
Oct 19-20

2-day Statewide Championship at SCCHA! Yup, Santa Cruz may be selected to host another state-wide competition at our beautiful facility.

An invitation-only event. Folks can qualify via the two shows listed above in May and August! How cool is that? Join us as a competitor or volunteer. This will be a terrific way to finish the riding season with good friends and great horses!

More details and online registration will be posted on SCCHA's event page after the holidays.

Hope to see you at these terrific events next year!

Anyone Interested in Learning to Rope?

Contact Darren: morgansrule@sbcglobal.net





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From Snaffle to Hackamore Part 3

by Bonnie Stoehn, SCCHA Board Director, Recording Secretary

There are those who say the snaffle is too harsh a bit to be used in the education of a Vaquero bridle horse. I often tell my students, "Bit severity is in the hands of the beholder." Within reason, most bits are quietly benign... without a human at the other end of the reins!

There are three ways the broken snaffle acts in the horse's mouth when reins are tightened:

- the mouthpiece folds and pincer-like pressure is applied,
- the "point" created by the folding, pokes the roof of the mouth,
- 3. while the bit begins grinding into the horse's sensitive gums (bars of the mouth).

Since the Vaquero tradition prides itself on light, responsive horses, you can see why they would tend to shy away from using snaffles. In contrast, the three tenants of their system are:

- 1. balance (horses always seek it),
- 2. signal (communication, not force through pain),
- 3. lift (lifting the reins up, not pulling them back).

There is, however, a fourth effect of the snaffle that helps the horse understand lateral flexion. Just what we're looking for before progressing to the hackamore which is all about longitudinal flexion.

Application of this forth effect involves taking slack out of one rein by moving an arm and hand out to the side catching the horse's eye and thus enticing him to bend.

At the very most, pressure is felt on the opposite side of the mouth, pushing his nose from the outside. Immediate release of the rein by the rider when the horse gives allows him to understand what to do. If preceding ground work has helped the horse learn that his "job" is to keep slack in the lead rope, giving to one rein for bending and eventually both reins for longitudinal flexion is something he can readily learn. Building one skill upon another.



BONNIE STOEHN

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Bonnie and FQHR Batgirl, newly in the hackamore, half halt within self carriage.

This progression is the beginning of what is termed collection, and self carriage. The horse understanding what is wanted by feeling back to his rider's orchestrated aids without bracing or pulling.

The pursuit of moving your horse from snaffle to hackamore begins on the ground. As mentioned, he needs to be solid in keeping slack in the rope for you, i.e., being directed by feel.

He needs to be able to correctly bend on a circle through bringing his inside hind leg forward and under his body. He needs to be able to be directed by you to move effortlessly forward and back as well as move hind and front quarters.

Then he needs to be able to do these things with you guiding from the saddle.

This moving from snaffle to hackamore is a progressive education of the horse with you as the teacher. And like all good teachers, you'll want to look for, and value, any feedback your "student" gives you. Nosebands, tight reins, martingales, draw reins, etc. all work to shut off the horse's ability to let the rider know how he is experiencing what is being offered. Feedback is shut down by equipment that forces the horse to endure discomfort and pain.

Another thing I say to students is that I want horses I'm working with to be free to gape their mouths open, toss their heads, etc. And then I work at developing partnership and getting them into a learning frame of mind so those things don't even come up.

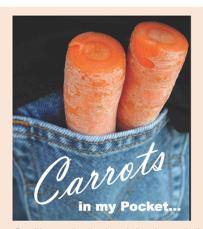
I know that a determined rider may be able to wrestle performance out of their horse using such restrictive equipment. They may be rewarded competitively for it and, in fact, often are.

The end justifying the means.

I've also seen that an equally determined rider can work towards finding the patience and understanding within themselves to offer the horse a thoughtful, progressive education.

The means is all there is.

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So, this morning I enjoyed cleaning up in the barn. No really! I puttered around changing the horses' bedding, cleaned up the water troughs, tidied up the feed area, etc.

While sweeping the mats it occurred to me that as a kid I would probably hate these chores. As an adult I really enjoy taking care of the horses and the harm

It's funny, housework feels like, well, work. I like the results, but not the process. Barn chores sometimes get in the way of riding, but I'm content while doing them.

The horses like it too. I usually give them carrots as I move them around to clean one area or another. Jack will step aside with just a touch, Sabra takes a bit of nudging. As soon a she moves though, she's looking for her treat. OK, maybe they are just a little spoiled.

Anyway, back in the house I decided to sit down & have another cup of coffee, only to find out there were lumps in the chair. No wait a minute, the lumps are in my pocket. Once again I've tried to sit down with carrots in my back pocket. Just another senior moment, I guess!

If you're reading this you're a friend of mine. I wish you joy today, and may you find carrots in your pocket too.

Heather Shupe

Giving your horse choice gives him the freedom to be himself. It is a great way to build his confidence, and can dramatically improve your relationship as he will start to trust that you are listening to him. But remember to respect his choice, if he says no and you don't like his decision, then it's not his choice at all.

— Justine Harrison, Equitopia Center



Upcoming Ali Kermeen Events at SCCHA:

Many exciting activities, including clinics, playdays, a camp, and schooling shows. In addition, the Bay Area WE will hold a Super Clinic. Dates to save:

May 11: Garrocha clinic June 19: WE obstacles June 20: WE dressage

Watch for more details!

Ongoing WE Practice Sessions

Thursdays and Saturdays 11:00 am—1:00 pm, unless a cancellation is posted on the BAWE Facebook page.

I'm a big fan of the term Karma Yoga, which is "focusing on a task with no thought as to the outcome of that task." That's the real skill, and this process is not really about training the horse, it's really about training ourselves. The horse is just the passion that guides us on this journey.

Warwick Schiller



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Fitness through Groundwork

No excuses this winter! Follow horse/rider fitness expert Jec Ballou for fun/effective exercises whatever the weather!

Most often its prescription comes as a result of age, injury, or poor weather. And depending on riders' perspectives, groundwork can become a repetitive and dull endeavor, especially when circumstances lead to its duration for several weeks. With a plan, however, groundwork can improve your horse's fitness. Here is how I approach it along with some worthwhile exercises.

Let's first clarify that the type of fitness we're influencing here is neuromuscular—strength and stability, body balance, muscular endurance. We are not trying to meet high end cardio needs. Groundwork can greatly improve movement patterns and develop good full range of joint motion. It is a wonderfully pure, direct way to ask your horse to coordinate, flex, and engage his body.

To keep your horse mentally alert, aim to keep sessions no longer than about 25 minutes. Spend the first 10 minutes walking. This is a good time to perform what I call "close in" work, or exercises where you are close to your horse's head before the more active/brisk part of your session which follows. Guide him through a variety of Corrective Exercises in a rhythmic walk. Some of my favorites include (from my book 55 Corrective Exercises for Horses):

- Backing up variations; Exercises #5 through #8
- Turns on Forehand
- Serpentine In-Hand; Exercise #35
- Uneven Ground Poles; Exercise #45

If you're adept at leg-yield or shoulder-in, you might add a few relaxed steps of each of these as well. Some quick walk-stop-walk transitions are always useful. I should note here that weaving these exercises together does require you to move around quite a bit as well. So, if you find yourself covering a lot of ground on foot, you are doing things right! I regularly log over a half-mile of walking during a 25-minute groundwork session.

After your 10 minutes of Corrective Exercises and walking, move on to one of the following longe line workouts. For simplicity, I have included four mini workouts below with references to my books where relevant. I suggest using a different one of these routines daily for a total of 3 days per week. For instance, choose a different routine for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On the days in between—Tuesday, Thursday, and the weekend—replace the longe workouts with lots of exercise on straight lines. This might include handwalking or ponying, a trail hike, or ground driving. This helps balance our the demands of repetitive circling from longeing.



This article is from Jec's January 2 blog post.

A quick note: for groundwork my personal preference is to use a longe cavesson. If you are interested in getting one, my colleague Patrick King sells them. Be sure to use code "Jec" in checkout and Patrick will send you a complimentary copy of his DVD "Talking about Transitions."

Mini Longe Line Workouts

- 1. Exercise on a Slope (Exercise #13, page 59 *Equine Fitness*). Practice this exercise for 10 to 15 minutes, depending on quality of footing surface and steepness of terrain.
- 2. Longe Circles with In-Hand Lateral Exercises. Perform 3 to 5 longe circles trotting, then bring the horse in to you and perform 30 seconds of lateral exercises— leg yield, shoulder-in, turns on haunches. Then immediately resume longeing for 3-5 circles, changing direction of travel. You can find a brief description of in-hand shoulder-in on page 45, Exercise #8 in *Equine Fitness*. Practice this sequence of alternating between longe circles and lateral exercises, for 15 minutes.
- 3. Longeing Therapy (Exercise #43, page 111 55 Corrective Exercises for Horses). Perform this awesome athletic routine for 10 minutes as described. If you own a fewer number of ground poles then what is illustrated, you can adapt the setup.
- 4. Two-Tone Circles. Begin by longeing in a slow jog around a small circle approximately 10 meters diameter. After completing 3 circles, allow the horse to enlarge his circle until he is at the end of your line and on a large circle approximately 20 meters. Now ask him to extend his trot strides around this bigger circle for 3 revolutions. Ask him to really move out and cover ground. Then, gather up your longe line and bring the horse in to your original smaller circle and ask him to slowly jog again. Keep repeating the sequence above for 5 minutes in each direction of travel.

In summary, use this formula (10 minutes of Corrective Exercises + 15 minutes on a longe line) 3 times weekly to create simple but purposeful plans for your groundwork. Consider checking out my on-line 30 Day Core Conditioning course for horses. Most of that course can be modified for groundwork.

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Sometimes people think that every horse that presents with an undesirable behavior must have had abuse or poor handling. This is simply not the case.

I see so many horses that have the best possible start in life, but still show anxiety. It is tricky for a predator and a prey animal to pair up, and some horses have bigger feelings about it than others. These are the horses that make us progress.

What worked before might not work, and we have to think a little harder and feel a little deeper into how they are feeling.

The horses that force us to grow, as an industry, are an absolute blessing.

Gareth Mare, Heartfelt Horsemanship, Pretoria, South Africa

2024 Resolutions for Horses

Make your horse happy first. You'll relax and have more energy to clean your closets later!

▶ More Movement!

More turnout, more room to run! More trail rides (when it's dry)! More groundwork (check out Jec Ballou)! More equine enrichment activities!

- ► More Hay/Fiber in Slower Feeders!

 Trickle feed and keep tummies happy!
- More Socializing! More playing and hanging out with other equines!
- ► Regular Vet and Farrier Visits!
 Get fecal exams before worming!
 Get annual equine health exams!
 Spend more time cleaning feet
 (your farrier will be happier)!
- ► More Volunteering!:
 Run for the SCCHA Board!
 Join the next trail maintenence day!
 Help out at the next Obstacle or WE events!

Remember: "Those of us with horses in our days are living with blessings unimaginable to most of the people on earth."

Lee McLean, Keystone Equine

The idea of horses wanting to be leaders over us or being dominate is a theory that is very outdated and scientifically unfounded, but there is something to be said for the handler assuming a confident, patient, benevolent leadership role in it's relationship with the horse. Without boundaries, clear communication, and consistency the horse is left to figure things out for itself in an artificial human made world. This can lead to behavioral issues that stem from confusion, fear, and inconsistency... not dominance.

Adele Shaw, The Willing Equine

Jane Brown's 1st photo of 2024: Junonia grisea, a species of Buckeye Butterfly. A beautiful omen for a New Year!







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4 Star Aluminum 🗙 3-Horse LQ for Sale

8' wide x 7'6" tall; WERM flooring Air Ride; drop down windows at head, stock windows at rear; mangers; stud wall; escape door; roof vents; collapsible rear tack with 3 saddle racks, blanket bars,

lots of hooks. 3 S-ring-tie hi ties. Electric jack; roof rack, 4 fresh water tanks (135 gal); solar panels; deep marine batteries.9' short wall, custom built interior; queen bed with10 cabinets; bench bed; full fridge/freezer; 2-burner stove with cover; microwave; extra big deep sink; heat; ceiling skylights with fans;





18' electric awning; full bath with shower, sink, large cabinets; LED lighting and luxury vinyl floors thruout; generator; day/night shades. Low-mileage radial tires, 2 spares. Very clean, bright, roomy. All well and lovingly maintained. \$49,000 Lots more details and photos available. debbieboscoe@gmail.com





2007 Circle J Riata

One owner. \$15,500 OBO (sorry no trades)

- Mid tack includes: swing-out saddle rack, tiered swinging blanket bar, water tank
- Large dressing area with custom retractable screen door, twin bed/bench, with extra storage underneath, medicine cabinet, boot box, clothes rod
- ► Front stall has escape door, 2 & 3 stalls have mangers, all have drop-down windows, travel grills, sliding bus windows on curbside, padded dividers, and mats on all walls & floor
- ▶ 2 cargo storage bins
- ▶ Box 22' overall length 28'2" ,1st stall 96", 2nd & 3rd stall 76" (measured on slant from manager to back wall), 2nd & 3rd stall 64"
- ► Stored under cover
- ► Tires new as of 6/20/23 (30 miles) E Rated
- ► Price reduced 10/8/23. Small portion of window, (in red circle in photo) was broken.

Contact: Valerie Vagg 530-476-2800 (H) (916) 812-4587 (C)

For Sale:

Contact:

laurelharlamoff@ hotmail.com



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2001 Brenderup Solo, only 1300 lbs. \$5000



17" Specialized ultralight sheepskin seat and stirrup leather covers \$2000



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17 " wintec saddle \$250

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Upcoming Events For more details, see SCCHA FB and website Events page.

1/16/24	Member Meeting/Talk with Kevin Foster	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/events
2/10/24	Beginning Horse Communication Class	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5467945
4/6/24	Spring Tuneup with Obstacles	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/events
5/11/24	Garrocha Clinic @ Showgrounds w/Ali Kermeen	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/events
5/25/24	Memorial Day Weekend Obstacle Challenge	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/events
6/19/24	Ali Kermeen WE Clinic	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5470720
6/29/24	SCCHA Kids Playday	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5470721



Need a pasture buddy? Sweet retired 32-yr-old Morgan gelding, just lost his BFF. He lives in Hollister and we want him closer to us, anywhere in Santa Cruz county. Ideal home would be pasture with shelter. Please contact Stephanie @ 831-332-5659. Thank you!!

Exiss CX-300 gooseneck, 3-horse slant, 2002, stock combo trailer with large tack room. \$13,500. Aluminum, good condition. Call 707-245-7896.

In search of a small barrel-racing saddle. We need a 13-inch seat & narrow tree (6.5-6.75 inch gullet). Rider is petite but her horse is tall, so must be light enough for a small person to get the saddle up onto her horse! Treeless ok, but must have a structured seat with tall cantle for long trail rides. Please contact us via shrkshupe@duck.com if you can help! Thanks

Room available mid-July near Summit Woods/Store with its own bathroom. We share kitchen, dining room, extensive deck/yard, outdoor cooking facilities, parking. We have 2 horses and are open to the possibility of a third horse....The people and the horses need to be compatible, so we're looking for a good match. For the room, \$1400 includes utilities, wifi, DISH TV, etc plus our charming company. First/last, no lease. No smoking, drugs, no pets. Drop us a line with some information about yourself and your phone number and we'll give you a call. Suwanda@surfnetc.com. 415 519 8031. Thanks!

COAST ROAD STABLES Boarding Available. Choice of large paddocks with cover and storage. Several arenas and turnout areas, wash racks, trailer parking. Reliable cleaning and feeding available. Adjacent to Wilder Ranch State Park. Message Ben 831-247-0543 or Amy 707-477-4720.

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SCCHA News Submissions:

DEADLINE is the last Tuesday of eachmonth for the following month's issue.

Members, please share your horse interests and experiences with us!

Business Ads:
Must be "carm

Articles from other publications accepted with reprint permissions. Email copy to editor in these formats; doc, docx, pdf

Images:

jpg, png formats, 72 dpi minimum

Trading Post Ads:

Must be non-commercial and horse-related. Free to members; \$10 for non-members. Include item, price, name, and contact info. Renew by email each month ad is to be run.

Must be "camera ready." Email images and/or copy to editor. Ads must be paid in advance to SCCHA. Send payment to: SCCHA, 1251 Graham Hill Rd, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Business Ad Rates:

Business card \$20/mo \$50/3 months \$40/mo \$400/year \$80/mo \$800/year 1/4 page 1/2 page

EDITOR: Karen Morgan

palmviewfarm@comcast.net

Thank You to our Board and all our Volunteers! 2023-2024 Board of Directors

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